

B-1
Cont

~~a first plug for disconnectable connection with the audio device;~~
~~a second plug for disconnectable connection with the portable communication terminal device;~~
~~an electroacoustical transducer;~~
~~first means connected to the second plug for detecting whether or not a call-related electric signal is outputted from the portable communication terminal device, and generating a detection result signal representative of a result of said detecting; and~~
~~second means connected to the first plug, the second plug, the electroacoustical transducer and the first means, for automatically disconnecting the first plug from the electroacoustical transducer and automatically connecting the second plug to the electroacoustical transducer in response to the detection result signal generated by the first means when the first means detects that a call-related electric signal is outputted from the portable communication terminal device.~~

9 (New). An earphone apparatus for an audio device and a portable communication terminal device, comprising:

a first plug for disconnectable connection with the audio device;

a second plug for disconnectable connection with the portable communication terminal device;

an electroacoustical transducer;

first means connected to the second plug for detecting a level of an electric speech signal outputted from the portable communication terminal device;

second means connected to the first plug, the second plug, the electroacoustical transducer, and the first means for automatically disconnecting the first plug from the electroacoustical transducer and automatically connecting the second plug to the electroacoustical transducer when the level detected by the first means is equal to or higher than a predetermined reference level;

B1
cont third means connected to the first plug, the second plug, the electroacoustical transducer, and the first means for automatically disconnecting the second plug from the electroacoustical transducer and automatically connecting the first plug to the electroacoustical transducer in cases where the level detected by the first means drops below the predetermined reference level and then remains lower than the predetermined reference level for a duration longer than a predetermined time length; and

fourth means connected to the first plug, the second plug, the electroacoustical transducer, and the first means for holding the first plug disconnected from the electroacoustical transducer and holding the second plug connected to the electroacoustical transducer in cases where the level detected by the first means drops below the predetermined reference level and then remains lower than the predetermined

Serial No. 09/003,812

reference level during the predetermined time length or shorter.

B1
cont

10 (New). An earphone apparatus as recited in claim 8, further comprising a microphone element connected to the second plug, and a switch connected to the second plug for generating a control signal transmitted to the portable communication terminal device.
